

(b) Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 12 and 55 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Kindly amend claims 8, 13, 52, 53 and 54 and add claims 56-61 as follows. A detailed listing of all the claims that are or were in the application is provided hereafter.

1. - 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A function device characterized by being obtained by incorporating a filling material into a porous body obtained by removing columnar members from a structure comprised of said columnar members and an area surrounding each of said columnar members, wherein said area is made of an amorphous Si, or an amorphous $\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x}$ ($0 < x < 1$), ~~and~~ the average distance between said columnar members is 30nm or less and wherein the length in the depth direction of columnar pores of said porous body is substantially equal to the thickness of the area surrounding said pores.

9. and 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The function device according to claim 8, wherein said filling material includes a conductive material, a magnetic material, a luminescent material or a semiconductor material.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a filling material and a porous body, wherein said porous body includes a plurality of columnar pores and said porous body is an amorphous Si, or an amorphous $\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x}$ ($0 < x < 1$), ~~and~~ the average distance between centers of said pores is 30nm or less and the length in the depth direction of the columnar pores is substantially equal to the thickness of an area surrounding the columnar pores.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 13, wherein said plurality of columnar pores have substantially no branch.

16. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 13, wherein the average distance between centers of said pores is 20 nm or less.

17. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 13, wherein the diameter of said columnar pore is 20 nm or less.

18. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 13, wherein said pores have substantially the same depth direction.

19. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 13, wherein said porous body includes aluminum.

20. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 13, wherein said porous body is formed on a substrate and the depth direction of said columnar pores is almost perpendicular to said substrate.

21. - 50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 13, wherein said filling material is a conductive material, a magnetic material, a luminescent material or a semiconductor material.

52. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a plurality of columnar members and an area surrounding the members,

wherein said members include a conductive material, a semiconductor material, a magnetic material or a luminescent material,

wherein said area is an amorphous Si or an amorphous $\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x}$ ($0 < x < 1$), and

wherein the average distance between centers of said columnar members is 30 nm or less,

and wherein the length in the depth direction of columnar pores of the columnar members is substantially equal to the thickness of the area surrounding the columnar members.

53. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a filling material and a porous body, wherein said porous body includes a plurality of columnar pores and said porous body is an amorphous Ge, ~~and~~ the average distance between centers of said pores is 30 nm or less and the length in the depth direction of the columnar pores is substantially equal to the thickness of an area surrounding the columnar pores.

54. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a porous body and a filling material incorporated into said porous body, wherein said porous body includes a plurality of columnar pores and said porous body is an amorphous silicon oxide, amorphous $\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x}$ ($0 < x < 1$) oxide or an amorphous germanium oxide, and the average distance between centers of pores is 30 nm or less, ~~and~~ said porous body contains aluminum and wherein the amount of aluminum contained in said porous body is 1 to 20 atomic %.

55. (Cancelled)

56. (New) The article according to claim 54, wherein the filling material is a magnetic material.

57. (New) A perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprising a filling material and a porous body, wherein said porous body includes a plurality of columnar pores and said porous body is an amorphous Si, or an amorphous $\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x}$ ($0 < x < 1$), the average distance between centers of said pores is 30 nm or less, and said filling material includes a magnetic material.

58. (New) An article comprising a filling material and a porous body, wherein said porous body includes a plurality of columnar pores and said porous body is an amorphous Si, or an amorphous $\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x}$ ($0 < x < 1$), the average distance between centers of said pores is 30 nm or less and said porous body contains aluminum.

59. (New) A perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprising a porous body and a filling material incorporated into said porous body, wherein said porous body includes a plurality of columnar pores and said porous body is an amorphous silicon oxide, amorphous $\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x}$ ($0 < x < 1$) oxide or an amorphous germanium oxide, and the average distance between centers of pores is 30 nm or less, said porous body contains aluminum, and said filling material includes a magnetic material.

60. (New) The article according to claim 58, wherein the amount of aluminum present in said porous body is 1 to 20 atomic percent.

61 (New) An article comprising a porous body and a filling material incorporated into said porous body, wherein said porous body includes a plurality of columnar pores and said porous body is an amorphous silicon oxide, amorphous $\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x}$ ($0 < x < 1$) oxide or an amorphous germanium oxide, the average distance between centers of pores is 30 nm or less, said porous body contains aluminum and the length in the depth direction of columnar pores of said porous body is substantially equal to the thickness of an area surrounding the pores.